

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide which promotes bone growth in mammals selected from: (i) a polypeptide consisting of [[up]] 8 to 13 consecutive amino acids selected from the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:19, and containing the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO: [[18]] 19, (ii) a polypeptide consisting of up to 13 consecutive amino acids selected from the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:13, and containing amino acid sequence of 6 to 16 thereof, and (iii) or conservative a conservatively substituted variant of a [[the]] polypeptide of (i) or (ii) which promotes bone growth in mammals..
2. (Currently amended) [[The]] A polypeptide of claim 1, containing up to 12 amino acids.
3. (Currently amended) [[The]] A polypeptide of claim 2, containing up to 11 amino acids.
4. (Currently amended) [[The]] A polypeptide of claim [[3]], wherein the polypeptide is selected from (i) and contains containing up to 10 amino acids, or a conservatively substituted variant thereof.
5. (Currently amended) [[The]] A polypeptide of claim 4, containing up to 9 amino acids.
6. (Currently amended) [[The]] A polypeptide of claim 5, containing 8 amino acids.
7. (Currently amended) [[The]] A polypeptide of claim 1, consisting of [[up]] 8 to 13 consecutive amino acids selected from the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:19, and containing the sequence identified as SEQ ID [[NO:18]] NO:19.
8. (Currently amended) [[The]] A polypeptide of claim 7, containing up to 12 amino acids.

9. (Currently amended) [[The]] A polypeptide of claim 8, containing up to 11 amino acids.

10. (Currently amended) [[The]] A polypeptide of claim 9, containing up to 10 amino acids.

11. (Currently amended) [[The]] A polypeptide of claim 10, containing up to 9 amino acids.

12. (Currently amended) [[The]] A polypeptide of claim 11, containing 8 amino acids.

13. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for promoting bone growth, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of any polypeptide of claim 1.

14. (Original) An isolated DNA fragment which encodes the expression of any of the polypeptides of claim 1, and DNA which differs from the fragment due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

15. (Original) A vector comprising a DNA sequence which encodes the expression of any of the polypeptides of claim 1.

16. (Original) vector comprising a heterologous DNA sequence comprising a DNA fragment of claim 14.

17. (Original) A process for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, which comprises:

a) preparing a DNA fragment containing a nucleotide sequence which encodes said polypeptide;

b) incorporating said DNA fragment into an expression vector to obtain a recombinant DNA fragment which contains said DNA fragment and is capable of undergoing replication;

c) transforming a host cell with said recombinant DNA fragment to isolate a transformant which can express said polypeptide; and

d) culturing said transformant to allow the transformant to produce said polypeptide and recovering said polypeptide from resulting cultured mixture.

Claims 18 - 19 (Canceled)

20. (Original) An isolated DNA fragment according to claim 14 substantially as herein described with reference to any example thereof.

21. (Original) A vector of claim 15 substantially as herein described with reference to any example thereof.

22. (Original) A process of claim 17 substantially as herein described with reference to any example thereof.

23. (New) An isolated polypeptide which promotes bone growth in mammals, the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a first nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes with a second nucleic acid molecule under high stringency hybridization conditions, wherein high stringency conditions include a wash step of about 0.2x SSC at 50° C, the complementary coding strand of which second nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide consisting of 8 to 13 consecutive amino acids selected from the amino acid sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:12.

24. (New) A polypeptide of claim 1 wherein one or the other of the N-terminal amino acid and the C-terminal amino acid is protected by a protecting group or both of the N-terminal amino acid and the C-terminal amino acid are protected by protecting groups.

25. (New) A polypeptide of claim 23 wherein one or the other of the N-terminal amino acid and the C-terminal amino acid is protected by a protecting group or both of the N-terminal amino acid and the C-terminal amino acid are protected by protecting groups.